

## BOOK REVIEW

WILLIAM F. LAURENCE and RICHARD O. BIERREGAARD, JR. (Editors). 1997. **Tropical Forest Remnants. Ecology, Management and Conservation of Fragmented Communities.** (ISBN 0-226-46898-4, hbk; ISBN 0-226-46899-2, pbk.). The University of Chicago Press, 11030 South Langley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628. \$27.50. 525 pp. text, 6 pp. contributors, 55 pp. references, 28 pp. indices.

This book contains a series of summary papers from a symposium held in 1995 during the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America. While the information may be somewhat dated, the volume is clearly a well-balanced summary of the most important concepts involved with habitat fragments, their restoration and long-term management of the biota resident therein. Given that tropical habitats are increasingly fragmented, the basic principles outlined in this book become a pre-requisite element in the formation of every new conservation biologist. It is important to note that while the papers presented in the book were written for 1995, they have all been supplied with updated references, so that frequent references to material published in 1997 is included.

The book is divided in seven sections, including: 1) The scale and economics of tropical deforestation, 2) physical processes and edge effects, 3) tropical forest faunas, 4) plants and plant-animal interactions, 5) restoration and management of fragmented landscapes, 6) site selection and design of tropical nature reserves, and 7) summary and new perspectives.

*Tropical Forest Remnants* would be an ideal book for a graduate seminar series. Given that our planet is largely comprised of a mosaic of remnant landscapes, varying in size, aspect, slope, hydrology, climate and proximity to other fragmented landscapes, specific training in fragment dynamics is increasingly important. To introduce the concept of tropical forest fragmentation to student conservation biologists, I heartily recommend that papers from Section VII, summary and new perspectives, be presented first, especially Chapter 32, "Tropical Forest Fragmentation: Synthesis of a Diverse and Dynamic Discipline." From there, reading of the chapters cited therein provide the most useful way to present the copious material of this book, the large reference list, and indeed, supplementary material published since 1997. The book covers, like no other I have seen, a cogent summary of how landscapes have become fragmented, how fragmentation among various elements of the biota should be measured, and what the long-term effects of fragment size, shape, location, etc., mean to each of those phyla for which we have data. Whether one is strictly concerned with tropical phenomena or not, there are valuable lessons for application in understanding habitat fragmentation for other biomes as well. I highly recommend this book to all who concern themselves with natural history, conservation biology, natural resource management, ecology and systematic biology.—*John J. Pipoly III.*